

Emergency Response News



June 2001

IDEM oversees cleanup of waste oil spill in Ripley County

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Ripley County Emergency Management Agency, Ripley County Health Department and Versailles Volunteer Fire Department contributed to the cleanup efforts of a waste oil spill from an aboveground storage tank at a former gas station in Holton, Ripley County.

An IDEM On Scene Coordinator received a call on the agency's spill line from a resident, who reported an oil spill in her backyard on June 5. Staff notified the Ripley County Emergency Management Agency and Ripley County Health Department to assist in the investigation of the spill.

Staff from the county health department found the spill appeared to have been released from a 500-gallon, waste oil aboveground storage tank. The Versailles Volunteer Fire Department was called to deploy booms in a nearby ditch and at a large area at several residential yards to contain the spilled oil. The area seemed to be secured, following several inches of rain. The health department asked IDEM to inspect the affected area, because of concerns about drinking water wells and spilled oil entering Little Otter Creek.

The On Scene Coordinator responded and found a larger spill area, than had been reported. It covered an area approximately 30 feet wide by 500 feet long at the side swale of a yard. The sheen had traveled along a road for about a ¼ mile, and in some areas along both sides of the roadway. Staff determined a cleanup was necessary to protect the area's groundwater and surface water along with the creek. A contractor was hired to conduct a cleanup, which included to vacuum up approximately 3,100 gallons of water and waste oil from the yard and a well that was located near the aboveground storage tank. Contaminated soil and free product were transported to a special waste landfill for proper disposal. The excavated area was backfilled, restored and reseeded.

IDEM continued to review the groundwater, surface water and soil samplings until the cleanup was completed to the agency's satisfaction to be protective of human health and the environment.



Site Snapshot

IDEM action:

Investigated and oversaw cleanup of contaminated groundwater, surface water and soil.

Location:

Residential area in Holton, Ripley County

Primary substance of concern:

Waste oil

Environmental threat:

Potential groundwater, surface water and soil contamination

For further information about IDEM's emergency response actions at this site, contact staff at the following phone numbers or at IDEM's toll free phone number, (800) 451-6027:

Greg Carter, On Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section
(317) 308-3036

Max Michael, Section Chief
Emergency Response Section
(317) 308-3049